"CALLAN" Synopsis.

No. 1. "Call me Sir."

Bill Craig.

Callan is coming towards the end of his sojourn in the "debriefing" house in Sussex. All the questions have been asked and answered and now he has time to consider what his future should be. Visitors, he is told, are expected; a "very senior man" is coming to see him.

The senior man is Bishop; a top, albeit unspecified functionary of the SIS (as in "The Same Trick Twice.") Bishop, in his official car with section driver, arrives. A wayside tramp notes their arrival.

Callan tells Bishop his thoughts; he isn't getting any younger, his edge is going somewhat... Perhaps some unhazardous executive non-operational role could be found for him in the Section..? Their own thoughts exactly, says Bishop. They've been wondering what to do with him now they've got him back. The matter is under consideration. Meanwhile, he's to report back for duty again, his country stay is over. Good, says Callan, there's a friend he wants to see...

Lonely is driving a totter's van, an ancient beat-up utility. He parks in a quiet mews and goes into one of the houses. Across the mews Someone watches him.

The mews studio flat is tenanted by Florence Mayhew, an artist who finds Lonely's face characterful and interesting. Happy to sit sit for her and happier to collect the hourly fee, Lonely regales her with his life and hard times and recollections of his good but missing friend, Mr Callan.

Driving back to London with Bishop, Callan finds Bishop uncommunicative about their destination. When they arrive at a small, but well appointed hotel, he tells Callan that this is his new (if temporary) residence. His old flat is insecure. The hotel suite is highly secure with a permanent Section guard on duty in reception and burglar-proof penthouse location. Bishop tells him that the SIS have knowledge that the KGB were reluctant to hand over a prisoner with so much valuable information in his head. And an almost certain suspicion that they will try to liquidate him. And the secure status is approprite to Callan's new position.

Lonely arrives back at the junkyard. His van blows up.

Callan reports to Section H.Q. to be greeted by Hunter. What, asks Callan, is to be his new function. He learns that he is being offered Hunter's job. Cross resents the situation. Hunter, departing for higher things, assures Callan that he's now completely in charge (if he accepts the job) though he'll be available anytime for advice and guidance.

Callan decides to think it over and (with sideaman Cross) goes off in search of Lonely; Calling at the junkyard where he's known to be employed, he learns about the explosion - and that Lonely took off and hasn't been seen since.. But he did have a friend in the district who might have some idea where he is.

Callan calls on Florence. She hasn't seen Lonely either but, since she owes him a few quid, thinks she might sooner or later. Callan declines to give her his phone number but says he'll be in touch. As he is leaving, she sees Cross and remarks that she's noticed him hanging about before.

Back at the office (possibly after some heavy hinting from Lisa) Callan asks for Lonely's file. It's a red one and contains the information that Cross was assigned to it.

Lonely, hungry-looking and scared, calls on Florence. She tells him that Callan's been round making inquiries after him. Lonely tells her where he can be contacted.

Callan questions Cross who agrees that he had orders to keep watch on Lonely. The file shows why; he was getting too close the Section's identity. Did the orders include trying to knock him off with a bomb to stop him getting any closer ? Cross denies it but even when Hunter confirms that the death mark isn't on Lonely - yet - Callan is still unconvinced.

But it's Callan's decision, says Hunter. He's in charge now. The logic of the situation is clear, though. An outsider knows too much...and there's always been one answer to that. Callan realises that if he doesn't appear to be applying the logic, then they might well appoint someone who will. He gives orders that an intensive search is to be made for Lonely. Only Lisa, who has agreed to co-operate, knows that Callan is trying to protect him.

Callan contacts Florence who tells him where Lonely is living. He then arranges with Lisa for a supply of false papers and identitity documents.

Eluding his bodyguard, Callan makes a night-call to the Mission doss-house where Lonely is hiding. They meet and Callan tells him that he'll have to get out of the country; tells him that he's arranging for a false passport, a Merchant Navy card and is fixing passage on a Canada-bound freighter - Lonely's being signed on as a steward.

Lonely doesn't want to go and can't see why he should. Because, says Callan, his life's in danger. That explosion... Yes, says Lonely, that explosion; it's the last time he does a favour for a friend. A safe-breaker mate asked him to mind a parcel. Lonely didn't know it was Gelignite, and unstable at that. He's been lying low thinking that the police must be making inquiries.

As Callan leaves, the only other occupants of the doss house, a tramp, watches him go.

Cross locates Lonely and tells Callan that a watch is being kept on the mission for his return. Callan agrees that he should be picked up. He contacts the mission and learns that Lonely has left a short time previously after receiving a message from a Miss Mayhew. Callan calls Florence and asks her to detain Lonely, on no account to let him return to the mission.

She agrees and hangs up. Callan is on his way over, she say to someone. And the someone is our previously-seen tramp character who fits a silencer to his pistol.

All unsuspecting, Callan walks into the trap. Lonely isn't there - but the gunman is. Callan extricates him (avoiding irrelevant detail) and escapes alive having killed his opponent.

As far as Hunter and Bishop are concerned, Callan has remained non-operational and only Lisa and Lonely know differently. But the Section now have Lonely - and Callan has to make a decision about him....

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